



March Grant Newsletter

March 26, 2014

Dear Fellow Hoosiers,

As I travel the State of Indiana from Lake Michigan to the Ohio River, I marvel at the beauty of our natural resources and the hospitality of Hoosier communities.

At the same time, I know that many communities—from large cities to small towns—face challenges and are looking for opportunities to revitalize and redevelop homes, businesses and factories that have been foreclosed or abandoned. In addition, many cities and towns in Indiana are also dealing with brownfields, which are properties where redevelopment is stalled due to existing or potential environmental contamination.

The quality of life in our neighborhoods is vital to our families and businesses, so I wanted to share with you some grants that are available to help with potential economic development and assist you in addressing other issues related to improving our neighborhoods. That's why my staff has compiled some resources that may help your community assess the problems and revitalize these areas.

Sincerely,



Senator Joe Donnelly

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely cleanup, and sustainably reuse brownfields. Revitalizing brownfield sites creates benefits at the site and throughout the community.

Brownfield programs are available throughout the year, so check the [EPA website](#) for funding that fits your needs.

Currently, the 2014 *Brownfields Training, Research, and Technical Assistance Grant* is available to eligible entities to conduct research, or provide technical assistance to communities facing brownfields cleanup and revitalization challenges. Proposals are due **April 18, 2014**.

Focus areas of this announcement include: technical assistance to environmental workforce development and job training grantees, technical assistance on the integration of environmental justice and equitable development for brownfields-impacted communities, research on the benefits of brownfields redevelopment, and technical assistance on brownfields financing and economic development strategies to brownfields-impacted communities.

Further details and helpful webinars can be found [here](#).

TAB (Technical Assistance to Brownfields)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities (TAB) Program funds technical assistance to communities and other stakeholders on brownfields issues with the goal of increasing the community's understanding and involvement in brownfield cleanup and revitalization, and helping to move brownfields sites forward toward cleanup and reuse. Kansas State University received an EPA grant to provide TAB services in the Midwest. Access TAB [here](#) and click on Region 5.

The TAB Program in Region 5

TAB assistance is tailored to the specific needs of your community and is usually coordinated through the city, tribal or non-profit brownfields project manager. For information about how KSU TAB can provide specific assistance to your brownfields program, call Blase Leven at 785-532-0780 or email baleven@ksu.edu.

TAB organizes and assists with a variety of brownfields workshops that address a wide range of brownfields issues. Workshops can be tailored to your community needs. To register for a webinar, sign up on the website.

The TAB Coordinator for Indiana is:

Beth Grigsby

beth.grigsby@cardno.com

(317) 579-4069

TAB E-Z

TAB E-Z is an online tool developed to increase accessibility for local governments and communities to EPA Brownfield assessment grants that can be accessed on the TAB website. TAB E-Z provides a framework for the community's proposal as well as strategies and relevant web links to EPA regulatory citations and websites to reduce time in writing the proposal. The program is user-friendly and can be accessed anytime at the user's own pace. It integrates Brownfield education with online support including definitions, regulatory citations and pertinent federal and state web links.

INDIANA BROWNFIELDS PROGRAMS

The Indiana Brownfields Program aims to assist communities by providing educational, financial, technical and legal assistance to identify and mitigate environmental barriers that impede local economic growth. To reach these goals, Indiana Brownfields Programs offers Revolving Loan Funds (RLF) Incentives and Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP).

Revolving Loan Fund Incentives facilitate the redevelopment of brownfield sites by making low-cost funding available through low-to-zero interest loans to finance environmental cleanups and facilitate the public or private redevelopment of brownfield sites throughout the state.

Supplemental Environmental Project: The Indiana Brownfields Program has collaborated with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) to offer political subdivisions in Indiana access to Supplemental Environmental Project funds for brownfields redevelopment activities.

Further details can be found [here](#).

INDIANA OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Through the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA), Indiana requests federal HUD funds to help rural communities with a variety of projects such as sewer and water systems, community centers, health and safety programs, and many others. These funds help communities improve their quality of life and ensure the health and safety of their citizens. These grants include Main Street Revitalization Programs, Planning Grants, Public Facilities Programs, Storm Water Improvement Programs, Waste Water and Drinking Water Programs, and Urgent Need Grants.

Further details about these funding opportunities can be found [here](#).

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)

The Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) is a key competitive grant program that HUD administers to stimulate and promote economic and community development. BEDI is designed to assist cities with the redevelopment of abandoned, idled and underused industrial and commercial facilities where expansion and redevelopment is burdened by real or potential environmental contamination.

BEDI grant funds are primarily targeted for use with a particular emphasis upon the redevelopment of brownfields sites in economic development projects and the increase of economic opportunities for low-and moderate-income persons as part of the creation or retention of businesses, jobs, and increases in the local tax base.

BEDI funds are used as the stimulus for local governments and private sector parties to commence redevelopment or continue phased redevelopment efforts on brownfields sites where either potential or actual environmental conditions are known and redevelopment plans exist.

For more information, click [here](#).

Community Development Block Grant Program

The CDBG program works to ensure decent affordable housing, to provide services to the most vulnerable in our communities, and to create jobs through the expansion and retention of businesses. CDBG is an important tool for helping local governments tackle serious challenges facing their communities.

The annual CDBG appropriation is allocated between States and local jurisdictions called "non-entitlement" and "entitlement" communities respectively. Entitlement communities are comprised of central cities of Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs); metropolitan cities with populations of at least 50,000; and qualified urban counties with a population of 200,000 or more (excluding the populations of entitlement cities). States distribute CDBG funds to non-entitlement localities not qualified as entitlement communities.

For more information, click [here](#).

Rural Housing Stability Assistance Program

Provides re-housing or improves the housing situations of individuals and families who are homeless or in the worst housing situations in the geographic area; stabilizes the housing of individuals and families who are in imminent danger of losing housing; and improves the ability of the lowest-income residents of the community to afford stable housing.

Competitive grants are awarded for rent, mortgage, or utility assistance, security deposits, relocation assistance, short-term emergency lodging, construction of new housing units to provide transitional or permanent housing, acquisition or rehabilitation of a structure to provide non-emergency transitional or permanent housing, property leasing, rental assistance, and payment of operating costs for assisted housing units.

Organizations eligible to receive a grant under this program include private nonprofit entities and county and local governments.

For information, contact the HUD Indianapolis Field Office at (317) 226-6303.

DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

Hardest Hit Fund --Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA)

President Obama established the Hardest Hit Fund in February 2010 to provide targeted aid to families in states hit hard by the economic and housing market downturn. Each state housing agency gathered public input to implement programs designed to meet the distinct challenges struggling homeowners in their state are facing. States were chosen either because they are struggling with unemployment rates at or above the national average or steep home price declines greater than 20

percent since the housing market downturn. For details, click [here](#).

The U.S. Department of the Treasury recently approved the use of \$75 million of Indiana's Hardest Hit Funds for its Blight Elimination Program. Indiana communities may now qualify for funds, distributed through a competitive grant program by IHCD, to address foreclosure prevention and eliminate blighted, vacant and abandoned homes. For information, local government leaders should click [here](#).

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Rural Development Grant Assistance Programs are provided by the USDA to help improve the economy and quality of life in rural America. This assistance comes in many forms including direct or guaranteed loans, grants, technical assistance, research and educational materials. Funding opportunities include Business and Cooperative Grant Assistance, Housing and Community Facilities Grant Assistance, and Utilities Grants.

For further details and to view the entire list of USDA Rural Development Grants, click [here](#).

Rural Community Development Initiative

The objective of the Rural Community Development Initiative is to develop the capacity and ability of private, nonprofit community-based housing and community development organizations, and low income rural communities to improve housing, community facilities, community and economic development projects in rural areas.

These grants will be made to *qualified intermediary organizations* that will provide financial and technical assistance to recipients to develop their ability to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development.

Rural Community Development Initiative grants may be used for but are not limited to: training sub-grantees to conduct a program on home-ownership education; training sub-grantees to conduct a program for minority business entrepreneurs; providing technical assistance to sub-grantees on how to effectively prepare a strategic plan; and provide technical assistance to sub-grantees on how to access alternative funding sources.

Find details [here](#).

Housing and Community Facilities Programs

Community Facilities Programs provide loans, grants, and loan guarantees for essential community facilities in rural areas. Priority is given to health care, education and public safety projects. Typical projects are hospitals, health clinics, schools, fire houses, community centers and many other community based initiatives.

A broad range of programs provides: housing rehabilitation and preservation funding; help to developers of multi-family housing projects, like assisted housing for the elderly and disabled or apartment buildings; and community facilities such as libraries, child care centers, schools, or municipal buildings; and firefighting equipment. Eligible recipients are nonprofit organizations, communities and local governments.

For more information, click [here](#) or contact your local Rural Development office which can be found [here](#).

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

EDA funds are provided to rural and urban communities in distressed regions to support the implementation of regional economic development. The goal is to spur job creation, leverage private capital investments, and strengthen America's ability to compete in a global marketplace.

Funding is available for a variety of projects that address infrastructure, utility and industry issues. Funding is also available for Brownfield development. EDA awards funding to projects that have specific solutions for regional economic development. Projects must foster collaboration, create jobs, and attract investment. Eligibility is based on economic distress criteria such as unemployment rate and per capita income.

EDA will review applications in quarterly funding cycles. The next deadlines are June 13, 2014 and October 17, 2014.

For more information, click [here](#).

[Click here to view this message in your browser.](#)

Please do not reply to this email. To contact my office, [please click here](#).

Senator Joe Donnelly Office Locations



Washington, D.C.

720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-4814
Fax: (202) 224-5011



Indianapolis, IN

10 West Market Street Suite 1180
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: (317) 226-5555
Fax: (855) 772-7518

For a full list of office locations, please [click here](#).

[Unsubscribe](#)

[Click Here](#) to be removed from this list